

break off the attack even after it had completely failed. He was the paragon type of those military

idols whom the Allied nations worshipped

Persistence so devotedly, although they suffered so

^/msives nauch from their incompetence
—the great

Generals who never learnt anything from failure except how to stage an even bloodier fiasco.

Joffre, Haig and Robertson had much in common.

Joffre was the most forceful personality of the three,

and of course had a much wider training

Similarities and experience in the handling of masses

1ST of men. But they had all largely the

same qualities and the same limitations.

They were genuine patriots. That did not differen-

tiate them from millions of their fellow-countrymen

during the War where, in Britain alone, over 4,000,000

young men volunteered to face mutilation and

death for their country, without prospect of braid

or brass to decorate or distinguish them. The

three were industrious workers, who did their duty

honestly according to their understanding of it. This

also, fortunately for mankind, is a commonplace

quality, possessed by the majority of toilers in every

sphere to which it has pleased God to call them. They

were also men with a knowledge of their craft,

acquired by much study and some little experience.

In that respect they were inferior to craftsmen in any

Military other trade or art, for their

experience
inferior to before the War had, happily for
mankind,
civilian **been** very limited. **None of**
them had
craftsmanship **taken part in a war under modern**
conditions, or ever seen one*. Their
experience, such as it
was, was very stale, and quite inapplicable
to the job
they had in hand. Patriotism, integrity,
industry,
study, and some grain of experience were
essentials of